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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 000119

SIPDIS

State for EB/TPP/MTA/MST:AWhitten and WHA/CEN
State pass USTR for CHooker

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ETRD](#) [HQ](#) [WTO](#)

SUBJECT: Honduran Market Access Priorities for WTO Services
Negotiations

REF: 04 State 270998

1. The following information is provided in response to
reftel:

Sector -----	Priority -----	Openness -----
Legal services	5	L
Accounting, auditing and bookkeeping services	3	H
Taxation services	3	H
Architectural services	4	H
Engineering and integrated engineering services	2	M
Urban planning and landscape architectural services	2	M
Computer and related services	2	H
Research and development services	4	H
Real estate services	3	H
Rental/Leasing Services	3	H
Advertising services	3	M
Market research and public opinion, polling services	3	M
Management consulting services	1	M
Technical testing and analysis services (including energy related testing services)	3	M
Services incidental to agriculture, hunting and forestry, and fishing	2	M
Services incidental to mining	1	M
Energy services (including land site preparation, drilling and plugging) (except for 88442)	1	L
Services incidental to energy distribution	1	L
Placement and supply services of personnel	5	L
Investigation and security	1	H
Related scientific and technical consulting services	2	H
Maintenance and repair of equipment	1	H
Building-cleaning services	5	H
Photographic services	4	H
Packaging services	2	H
Printing, publishing	3	H
Convention services	5	H
Courier services (Express Delivery)	2	H
Telecommunication services	1	H
Audiovisual services	3	H
Construction and related engineering	2	M
Distribution Services, including: commission agents' services, wholesale trade services, retailing services, and		

franchising	1	H
Educational Services, including: higher education services, adult education (i.e., vocational), other education services (i.e., testing and computer or language training)	3	M
Environmental services (wastewater treatment, sanitation, protection of ambient air and climate, remediation and clean up, noise and vibration abatement, and biodiversity protection)	3	H
Insurance services	3	M
Banking and other financial services including securities	3	M
Tourism and travel-related services, including: hotels and restaurants, catering, travel agencies and tour operators services, and tourist guides services	1	H
Recreation and sporting services (other than audiovisual services), including: entertainment services (including theatre, live bands and circus services), news agency services; libraries, archives, museums and other cultural services; sporting and other recreational services.	2	M

12. Comment: Please note that a high or medium ranking for "openness" in the table above indicates only a lack of statutory barriers to foreign investment in that sector. It does not necessarily indicate a trouble-free investment climate in practice. Historically, U.S. firms and citizens have found corruption to be a problem which seriously complicates doing business in Honduras, particularly in the areas of government procurement and the buying and selling of real estate. Additionally, the judicial system is easily influenced; investment and business disputes involving foreigners have rarely been resolved in a transparent manner. So, for example, while Honduran laws are very welcoming of foreign investment in the tourism sector, American citizens who purchase property for use as a restaurant or hotel may nonetheless find themselves ensnared in a complicated legal dispute with little hope of a rapid and just resolution. End comment.

Palmer